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Steering Committee
Land 2/28/84
(9338)

HELLS CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA
In-Service Coordination Process

12/15/83
Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor

Date

Tom Cavalieri
Nezperce Forest Supervisor

2/28/84
Date

Bennett D. Weyer
Payette Forest Supervisor

2/15/84
Date

I. INTRODUCTION

When Congress established the boundary of the Hells Canyon NRA, a special coordination need was intensified. Obviously, managing this unique area of land and its unique legislative mandate is complicated by the fact that three forests and three regions are involved. While the Chief has decided that it will be managed as one administrative unit of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, R-6, it is important that the Nezperce National Forest, R-1, and the Payette National Forest, R-4, be involved.

Coordination between these forests is not new. The early 1970's brought about the Snake-Salmon Fire Management Complex. This ongoing coordination effort has been very successful. Likewise, the Interim Guidelines for management of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, which were approved by the three Forest Supervisors, still provide the basic management guidance. This document will continue until all Comprehensive Management Plan appeals are reconciled by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Since November, 1979, there has been ongoing coordination between the various neighboring Ranger Districts and the Hells Canyon NRA. There are certainly improvements that can be made to strengthen this coordination. This document is ment to formalize the process to be used by all units of the Forest Service to meet this objective.

II. SCOPE

There are two distinct areas of coordination which take place. First is the sharing of information, appeals, emerging issues, and concerns over shared jurisdictions which need to be shared at the Regional Forester's and Chief levels. By definition these are controversial subjects which effect Congressional offices, State or local governmental bodies, or significant outservice public(s). This coordination must be rapid and thorough.

The second coordination area deals with the ongoing functional coordination that must take place between Districts and the Forests which will result in efficient and cost effective management of the basic land area within and surrounding the Hells Canyon NRA. These subjects are less controversial and would seldom demand the individual attention of any line officer above the Forest Supervisor.

The process for dealing with each of these coordination areas will be dealt with separately. There will obviously be some overlap, yet if the elements are carried out, the current coordination activities should be strengthened.

III. PROCESS

A. Significant Coordination

The controversiality of the Hells Canyon NRA demands that special efforts be made to anticipate issues; inform the public, local and state agencies and Congressional offices; and provide feedback as needed. The following steps will be taken to insure that proper levels of the Forest Service organization are fully coordinated.

1. Annually the Hells Canyon NRA Manager will prepare a Public Information Plan. This plan will describe the emerging issues process which will be utilized. Issues will be gathered from each forest and action plans formulated. These action plans will be forwarded directly by the NRA Manager to the Public Information Officer on the Nezperce and Boise National Forests and the Public Affairs Specialist on the Payette National Forest. Internal Wallowa-Whitman National Forest communication will follow normal procedures.
2. When an unforeseen event or issue arises, and when speed of information flow is important, the NRA Manager will prepare an Early Warning Alert, R-6 1600-4, and submit a copy to the Forest Supervisors of the Payette, Nezperce, Boise, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, and the Information Office Directors, Regions 1, 4 and 6. It is assumed that the NRA Manager would seldom follow the process without verbal contact with the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor. Further, it is assumed that R-6 will take the lead as needed, in notifying the proper Washington Office personnel.
3. Copies of correspondence which is of an information sharing nature, as opposed to internal management, which is originated by the NRA Manager and which would be of benefit to the Nezperce and Payette Forests will be forwarded to each.
4. The NRA will be available on an as requested basis to present an introductory program on NRA organization, management, opportunities, and issues to any Forest or Regional office.
5. Region 6 will be allowed to participate in the preparation of all Memorandums of Understanding/Cooperative Agreements which are formulated by Region 1 and/or 4 and the State of Idaho.
6. The Forest Supervisors of the Payette, Nezperce and Wallowa-Whitman may request a joint meeting to discuss NRA management at any time. It would not be expected that these would occur more often than once annually.
7. Annually, the NRA Manager will prepare, for distribution by the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor, a white paper describing the key internal and external happenings of the past 12 months. This paper will also give a status report of emerging or emerged issues. This paper will be distributed to all Forests and Regions.
8. The Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor and/or NRA Manager will attend Idaho Forest Supervisor meetings where the agenda includes discussion items affecting the NRA or when the group feels a need for an NRA status report.

B. Ongoing Functional Coordination

Annually prior to March 1, the NRA Manager and the District Rangers for New Meadows, Council and Salmon River Districts will meet to discuss the various functional activities which each unit will be undertaking adjacent to the various units. Discussions will not only meet the objective of information sharing, but will center on sharing of manpower, equipment, facilities, and expertise. The discussions will be formally documented and forwarded for review by the various Forest Supervisors.

The following topic areas will be discussed. Others may be added as the need dictates.

1. Information
2. Fire prevention
3. Search and rescue
4. Law enforcement
5. Roads, trails, signing
6. Rapid River
7. Mining
8. Capital investments
9. Special services
10. Administrative facilities
11. Lands, special uses, private land use regulations
12. Hells Canyon Reservoir
13. Recreation
 - a. Dispersed (including Snake River)
 - b. Developed
 - c. Wilderness
 - d. Cultural resources
14. Timber
15. Range (including administrative pasture)
16. Wildlife

In addition, there will be a 6 month joint notification of adjacent projects. Target times for these notifications will be May and November.

Revisions, Modifications, Amendments



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

WO

Reply to

1230 Delegations of Authority
2370 Other Areas

Date APR 4 1985

Subject

Delegation of Authority Hells Canyon

To

Regional Forester, R-6

Effective this date, you are hereby delegated authority to approve changes in management direction contained in the Comprehensive Management Plan - Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. Enclosed is a copy of the proposed 2371 Section of the new Manual which should be final about September 1985.

For

F. Dale Robertson
R. MAX PETERSON
Chief

Enclosure

Orig: RF
cc: DRF-R, adm
Rec
MS



2371.03 Policy

1. Manage each special area as an integral part of the National Forest System but "showcase" for system standards, while recognizing the primary values and resources identified by the law that established the area.
2. Manage other values or resources not emphasized nor prohibited in the law in a manner compatible with the primary values of the area and overall National Forest management objectives.
3. Manage each special area as a separate unit of National Forest land in harmony with the other units as outlined in the Forest Plan.
4. Prepare a comprehensive management plan, if directed by the law, for each area, which gives specific management direction for all resource values within the area.

2371.04 Responsibilities

2371.04a Secretary of Agriculture

The Secretary is responsible for appointing Advisory Board members and officers.

2371.04b Chief

The Chief is responsible for:

1. Nominating advisory board members and officers.
2. Reporting advisory board activities to the Secretary.
3. Approving the area's legal boundary description and map and transmitting it to Congress.

2371.04c Regional Forester

The Regional Forester is responsible for:

1. Preparing policy that interprets direction given in the Act and it's legislative history for each special area. This responsibility may not be redelegated.
2. Approving management direction for each area in Forest Plans and comprehensive management plans for each area.
3. Recommending Advisory Board members and officers.
4. Acting as the Secretary's representative in all dealings with the Advisory Board.
5. Preparing the official map and legal boundary description.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

R-4

to Susan

(759)

Reply to

1300 Management

Date: May 3, 1984

Subject

In-Service Coordination--Hells Canyon NRA

see 2/28/84
12/12/83

To

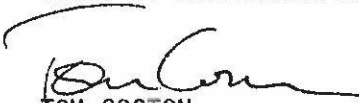
Chief

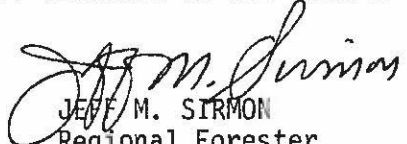
During the 1983 Winter RF&D Meeting, there was discussion about the level of In-Service coordination between the Regions and National Forests involved in the management of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA). We wanted you to be aware of recent actions which have been taken to assure coordination among the involved units.

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DEC 10 5 20 PM '84
-2/24/84
A detailed coordination plan has been developed and implemented by the Forest Supervisors of the Wallowa-Whitman, Nezperce and Payette National Forests. A copy is enclosed for your information. The development of this plan followed a two-day visit by the Information Directors from Regions 4 and 6 last October.

During early April, Associate Deputy Chief J. B. Hilmon met on-site with Regional Foresters Coston, Tixier and Sirmon, along with the Forest Supervisors and managers of the NRA. The purpose of this visit was to review current and planned activities and to identify opportunities to further strengthen coordination activities.

We believe the programs and activities of the Hells Canyon NRA are well coordinated among the involved Regions and National Forests and anticipate this high level of coordination will continue in the future.


TOM COSTON
Regional Forester
Northern Region


JEFF M. SIRMON
Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region


J. S. TIXIER
Regional Forester
Intermountain Region

Enclosure





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
Box 490, Enterprise, Oregon 97828

Reply to:

2360 Special Interest Areas

Date: December 12, 1983

Subject:

FY 1984, Hells Canyon NRA Coordination Meeting

To

Forest Supervisors, Wallowa-Whitman, Nezperce, and Payette

On December 1, 1983, Rod Barker, Pete Walker and Sherry Wagner of the Payette National Forest; Bob Abbott of the Nezperce National Forest; and Art Seamans and Al Defler of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest met in Lewiston, Idaho for the first annual interforest coordination meeting. The previous day this same group drafted a suggested inter-forest/inter-regional coordination process document. One step required in this draft is an annual review of all adjacent functional activities. Following are the consensus agreements reached for fiscal year 1984.

1. Fire Prevention - New Meadows, Council, and Salmon River Ranger Districts and the Hells Canyon NRA will exchange for joint review their fire prevention plans.
2. Search and Rescue - Pat Kelly will prepare an NRA overall Search and Rescue Plan. Chuck Hawkins, Payette, and Bob Abbott, Nezperce, will help with coordination with Adams and Idaho Counties respectively. Kelly will coordinate preparation of the plan with these individuals. Copies of the final plan will be distributed to each unit.
3. Law Enforcement - Level IV trained law enforcement personnel will be available on an as needed basis to any forest. Requests for services will be through the Administrative Officer of each forest. The individuals will arrive armed in the manner prescribed by the home forest policy. Each forest will provide a written policy statement to the other units by April 1, 1984.
4. Road Maintenance, Trail Maintenance, and Signing - Road numbers on the Island unit will follow the R-1 and R-4 numbering scheme. Prior to July 1, 1984, the NRA and Salmon River Ranger District will review signing for the Island unit. NRA representatives will attend the semi-annual Nezperce Forest road maintenance meeting. The majority of NRA road maintenance in Idaho will be either contracted to the Nezperce or to an outservice contractor.

Any Forest Service road maintenance between Bear and Smith Mountain will be done by Council Panger District. It is anticipated very little will be done.

At the annual coordination meeting, beginning next year, each unit will be prepared to discuss planned force account and contract trail maintenance work. Contracts may be combined and force account work shared.

5. Range - The following allotments/permits are the sole management responsibility of the named unit even though the permit crosses



Hells Canyon NRA

Sheep Creek
Pittsburg
Big Canyon

New Meadows Ranger District

Curran Hill
Echols Butte
Deep Creek (shared with Council District)

Council Ranger District

Deep Creek (shared with New Meadows District)

Salmon River Ranger District

While each unit named is totally responsible for administration of the allotment, there is a responsibility to coordinate annual operating plans, new range improvement construction on another unit, crossing permits, new EA's and RAMP's, and permit transfers.

The R-4 upper limits and base property requirements will be used for all allotments overlapping into the NRA from Council and New Meadows Ranger Districts. The R-1 upper limits and base property requirements will apply to all other allotments within the NRA within Idaho.

Wayne Burleson, Pete Smith, and Al Becker will jointly analyze the Boise Trail stockdriveway now used by Fulford Sheep Company. This analysis and final solution will be introduced into next seasons annual operating plan.

The NRA and Salmon River Ranger District will develop a joint plan to maintain/reconstruct the fence around the 7-Devils administrative pasture. This planning will be done by July 1, 1984. Wayne Burleson will take the lead in the planning effort.

The NRA will winter all Nezperce and Payette Forest stock and will manage the administrative pasture.

6. Rapid River - The Salmon River Ranger District will keep the NRA up-to-day on all private land use activities taking place in the Rapid River Corridor. The purpose is to insure consistent application of private land use regulations.
7. Mining - Council Ranger District will keep the NRA informed on activities associated with the Redledge Mine. Likewise, the NRA will keep Salmon River District informed concerning the Bluejacket Mine.

8. Recreation -

- a. NRA will utilize Council District contractor to pump Black Lake Campground toilets.
- b. NRA will continue to use Council Ranger District seasonal employee at Hells Canyon Dam.
- c. The NRA archaeologist is available to the Salmon River District for timber sale work on the Island Unit.
- d. Salmon River District will man Heavens Gate Lookout. NRA will attempt to help defray volunteer costs. NRA will train lookout in VIS activities.
- e. Forest travel plans will continue to be exchanged in draft for review and comment.
- f. Julie Gardner will be available to present an NRA orientation program to unit receptionists, local Chambers of Commerce, etc. As requested.
- g. Salmon River Ranger District will issue one outfitter and guide permit to Homer Joseph for all activities on the three forests. Content of this permit will be coordinated.
- h. There is a potential for the State of Idaho to construct a campground at Big Bar. The Payette Forest will take the coordination lead. Wallowa-Whitman Forest is supportive of the project.

9. Capital Investments - The Payette and Wallowa-Whitman Forests will continue to monitor activities surrounding the potential construction of a trail from Hells Canyon Dam to Brush Creek on the Idaho side of the Snake River. The position of the Forest Service on this project is one of non advocacy for or against the project.

Coordination of the road construction for Pittsburg will follow the course established by previous memo.

10. Special Services - Services such as boundary survey, aerial photography, mapping, land line location, etc. will be shared when efficiency can be gained. Each unit will watch for opportunities and coordinate with their neighboring unit.
11. Timber - No Christmas tree or firewood permits will be issued within that portion of the NRA lying within the proclaimed Payette National Forest. All such permits within the NRA within the proclaimed Nezperce National Forest will be issued in accordance with the Nezperce Forest policy.

Council Ranger District will keep the NRA informed on the progress of planning for the Copper Creek Timber Sale.

The Nezperce Forest will scale the Kirkwood Visual Rehabilitation Timber Sale. Salmon River Ranger District will make available assistance in sale administration for this sale.

12. Administrative Facilities - The NRA will totally manage the 7-Devils Guard Station. The horse pasture associated with this facility will be shared with Salmon River District.

The Forest Service facility will continue to be shared by Salmon River District and NRA until such time as private building encroachment eliminates helicopter use. The NRA will assume the heat bill and will pay for one telephone. Salmon River District will handle grounds keeping. Both units will actively pursue getting a senior citizen ceiling for this purpose. Lynn Catherman, Salmon River District, is available for improvement maintenance work on any unit.

13. Lands - The NRA will take the lead in pursuing the Campbell purchase with support from the Nezperce Forest. The Council District will have the lead concerning the Deep Creek power permit. The NRA will be the lead unit in preparation of the NRA Private Land Use Regulations.

14. Hells Canyon Reservoir - Council Ranger District will take the lead in management of activities within Idaho from the waterline and east. Activities which occur below the high water mark will be coordinated with the NRA. It is assumed that any permits issued below the high water mark will be done by the Council District and administered by them.

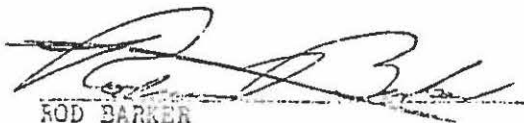
The next annual meeting will take place prior to March 1, 1985. It is assumed that this is a flexible document which can be altered as the need develops. The principal objective is that each unit be actively involved in helping their neighbors accomplish their mission in the most efficient and effective manner possible.



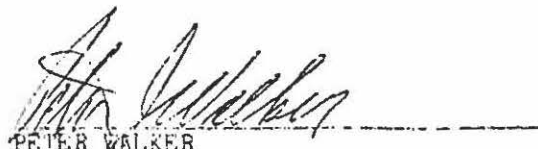
ALAN S. DEFLER
Hells Canyon NRA Project Manager



ROBERT ABBOTT
Salmon River District Ranger



ROD BARKER
Council District Ranger



PETER WALKER
New Meadows District Ranger

cc: Kelly
Jedrykowski
Seamans
Burleson